Message Text

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PAGE 01 CARACA 07893 112209Z

70

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 EUR-25 DOTE-00 L-03 SS-15

NSC-10 DRC-01 /102 W

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R 112104Z SEP 73 FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1181 INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

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E.O. 11652 N/A TAGS: ETRN. VE

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: PANAM - VIASA TALKS

- 1. OFFICIALS OF PAN AMERICAN WORLD AIRWAYS AND VENEZOLANA INTERNACIONAL DE AVIACION S.A. (VIASA) LAST WEEK HELD TALKS IN CARACAS REGARDING VARIOUS POSSIBLE INTER-LINE AGREEMENTS ON TICKETING, BLOCKED SPACE AND JOINT PROMOTION TOWARDS SOUTH. DURING THESE CONVERSATIONS VIASA, IN CONTRADICTION TO THEIR USUAL STANCE, ADMITTED THAT THEIR INTEREST IN ARGENTINA AND BRAZIL IS MARGINAL BECAUSE OF LITTLE TRAFFIC TO AND FROM CARACAS.
- 2. WHILE THESE TALKS APPARENTLY WERE INFORMAL AND ORIGINALLY SEEMED TO HAVE NO OFFICIAL SANCTION FROM THE VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT, GOVERNMENT CIRCLES SEEM TO ATTACH CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE TO THEM. TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT CHIEF MARIANO TIRADO CALLED EMBASSY LAST WEEK TO INQUIRE ABOUT THE EMBASSY'S VIEWS REGARDING A RELEASE TO THE PUBLIC OF THE CONTENTS OF ANY AGREEMENT WHICH MIGHT RESULT. TIRADO FEARS ADVERSE PUBLICITY STEMMING FROM LEFTIST EXPLOITATION OF NATIONALISTIC FEELINGS WITH POSSIBLE DAMAGE TO THE DEMOCRATIC PARTIES DURING ELECTIONS. EMBASSY INFORMED TIRADO THAT WHILE THIS SEEMED TO BE PRIMARILY A VENEZUELAN MATTER, FINAL RESULTS OF SUCH TALKS ARE STILL UNCERTAIN AND POSSIBLY SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY CAB WHICH MIGHT BE TIME-CONSUMING. IT SEEMED OBVIOUS THAT TIRADO IS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 CARACA 07893 112209Z

HOPING FOR SOME SORT OF POOL AGREEMENT, ALTHOUGH EMBASSY REITERATED

THAT THIS STILL NOT POSSIBLE DUE TO OUR POLICY.

3. TIRADO REPLIED THAT IN HIS OPINION CAB IS SOMEWHAT MORE LENIENT IN THIS RESPECT NOW AND THAT EVEN IF NO POOL IN TRUE SENSE OF THE WORD WOULD BE POSSIBLE, SOME INITIAL STEP MIGHT BE AGREED UPON. TIRADO CONFIRMED WHAT SEEMED TO BE OBVIOUS DURING TALKS, NAMELY THAT VIASA IS INTERESTED IN CLOSE COOPERTION WITH PAN AM. FISHER

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